

PATENT

51204

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of : Confirmation No.: 5141
Hiroyuki IKEUCHI et al. : Art Unit: 1796
Serial No.: 10/577,355 : Examiner: S. Sastri
Filed: April 28, 2006 :
For: PARTICULATE WATER-ABSORBENT :
RESIN COMPOSITION AND ITS :
PRODUCTION PROCESS :

RESPONSE AFTER FINAL

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the March 9, 2010 Office Action in connection with the above-identified application. In view of the following comments, reconsideration and allowance are requested.

Rejection of Claims 1 and 4-16

Claims 1 and 4-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0157318 to Brehm et al. Brehm et al. is cited for allegedly disclosing a water-absorbent resin as in the claimed invention.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Action does not establish *prima facie* obviousness of the claimed invention. Specifically, the Action has not demonstrated that it